Private Airlines' services to Gulf

15. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal from the private airlines for access to lucrative Gulf and other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) and (b) Though private airlines had in the past sought in principle approval to operate to points in the Gulf, Middle East, South and South East Asia against the Indian side's unutilised entitlements, their request could not be considered as there was no policy to designate private airlines to operate on international routes. However, in view of the recent joint statement signed during the visit of the Sri Lankan Prime Minister, the private airlines have again requested for permission to operate to Colombo.

Civil amenities at Allahabad airport

16. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic condition of civic amenities at the Bambrauli Airport, Allahabad;

(b) whether Government are aware that common utilities like toilets, drinking water, seating facility, air conditioning, etc. have not been provided;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to provide the same; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI) : (a) Bamrauli airport belongs to Ministry of Defence. Airports Authority of India (AAI) maintains a Civil Enclave to accomodate 100 passengers at a time with all passenger facilities like toilets, drinking water and seating arrangements.

(b) Necessary basic amenities in terminal building are available at this airport.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority is augmenting passenger amenities at this airport in a phased manner.